

Maidenhead  
13 Dec. 1865

My dear Sir

It would give me sincere pleasure to be of any use to you in your new undertaking. I know from experience that it is necessarily a hazardous one, and that it will require all your young energies to infuse new and lively blood into the veins of the "Old Gentleman". At his time of life that must be done, or he cannot survive. In his day he has tried many

Doctors, and it so happens  
that, excepting the very first,  
I have known them all.  
I was familiarly acquainted  
with the grandfather of the  
present John Gough Nichols.

I am afraid that one  
old gentleman can be of  
little service to another, es-  
pecially, in supporting her on-  
ward steps; but if I can do  
anything, I will do it for  
your sake. What you must  
aim at is to get young cle-  
ver writers, up to the age,  
and who will send you ar-  
ticles adapted to the period  
in which we live. They will  
require to be well paid, and  
hence the difficulty. I do  
not see that you propose to



decrease the price, & yet  
our very best Magazines  
now are sold for less than  
half the money.

If any thing comes in  
my way that I think may  
be useful to you, you may  
depend upon it that I will  
remember you; but my  
presents and likings are  
quite out of the beaten  
track, and I am much too  
old (just entering on my 78<sup>th</sup>  
year) to alter either my style  
or my matter. I wish you  
success with all my heart.

Yours most sincerely  
J. Payne Collier

P.S. I do not ~~care~~  
care one straw for "modes  
of faith"; and most men  
who have reached my years  
have modes of their own. I  
only wish I had Sir Thomas  
Brown's thorough convictions  
and wide swallows. That  
I have earnestly desired all  
my life, but never could  
arrive at.

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